

Message Text

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13

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 USIA-15 PRS-01 DRC-01

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R 072133Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6957

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT AU PRINCE 1550

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, HA

SUBJ: GENERAL RAYMOND, FRANCISQUE AND CINEAS DEPART HAITI

1. GENERAL CLAUDE RAYMOND, FORMER FINANCE SECRETARY EDOUARD FRANCISQUE, AND FORMER INFORMATION SECRETARY FRITZ CINEAS ALL DEPARTED HAITI SEPTEMBER 5 AND 6, PRESUMABLY FOR THEIR NEW POSTS AS AMBASSADOR TO SPAIN, FRANCE, AND ITALY RESPECTIVELY. THE DEPARTURES WERE REPORTED IN THE LOCAL PRESS IN LOW-KEY FASHION, THE OFFICIAL DAILY LE NOUVEAU MONDE, SEPTEMBER 6, REPORTING THAT RAYMOND AND CINEAS HAD A "LONG AND CORDIAL INTERVIEW" WITH THE PRESIDENT AND MADAME DUVALIER BEFORE LEAVING FOR THEIR NEW POSTS.

2. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT RAYMOND, FRANCISQUE, AND CINEAS, ALL OUSTED FROM THEIR FORMER HIGH POSITIONS IN CABINET AND MILITARY SHAKEUP OF AUGUST 1973, WERE IN FACT TOLD TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY ON VERY SHORT NOTICE AND THAT NONE OF THE THREE HAS AS YET RECEIVED AGREEMENT FOR HIS NEW POSITION. ONE USUALLY RELIABLE EMBASSY SOURCE IN GOH REPORTS HE WAS TOLD BY CINEAS SEPTEMBER 5 THAT CINEAS WAS ORIGINALLY NOT PLANNING TO LEAVE HAITI FOR SEVERAL WEEKS, BUT SEPTEMBER 4 RECEIVED ORDERS FROM PALACE TO DEPART NEXT DAY. SAME SOURCE REPORTS HURRIED DEPARTURE OF RAYMOND, CINEAS, AND FRANCISQUE IS WIDELY KNOWN IN GOH AND GENERALLY INTERPRETED AS A STEP IN CLEARING THE DECKS FOR AN EARLY RETURN
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BY MARIE-DENISE AND MAX DOMINIQUE TO POWER IN HAITI

(RAYMOND, CINEAS, AND FRANCISQUE BEING ANATHEMA TO THE DOMINIQUES).

COMMENT: SPECULATION THAT THE DOMINIQUES WILL RETURN TO HAITI WITHIN A MATTER OF DAYS IS NOW INTENSE HERE. HOWEVER, IT HAS BEEN NEARLY A MONTH NOW SINCE PRESIDENT DUVALIER ANNOUNCED THE APPOINTMENT OF GEN. RAYMOND, FRANCISQUE, AND CINEAS AS AMBASSADORS, AND THE PRESIDENT MAY WELL HAVE EXPEDITED THEIR DEPARTURE TO HEAD OFF ANY DOUBTS AS TO WHETHER THE THREE WERE SUCCESSFULLY RESISTING A DECISION OF THE PALACE.
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